OVR LADYS RETORNE

to England, accompanied with saint Frances and the good Iesus of Viana in Portugall, who comming from Brasell, ariued at Clauelly in Deuonshire, the third of Iune 1592.

A wonder of the Lorde most admirable, to note how many Spanish saintes are enforced to come one pilgrimage for Englande

With the most happie fortune of that braue gentill-man William Grastone Cittizen of London, Captaine and oner of out Ladies. Writen by H. R.

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II R. In Captaine Graftons worthie deserued commendations.

Braue noble brutes, ye troiane youthfull wightes,
Whose land doth reach the sentoure of the sunne:
Your braue attempts by land, on seaes your sightes,
Your forwarde hearts, immortall fame hath wonne.
The world reportes, what Londoners hath done,
Freemen I meane, and prentices of worth:
For countrie seruice, that are called forth.

Amongst which of name let grafton haue his due,
Valiant braue man whose courage none could quaile:
His actes at larg heere after shall insue,
And how in fight he often did preuaile.
When three to one on seaes did him assaile.
Seeking by force his ruine to haue wrought:
Which he surpraised and them to england brought.

Read Graftones deedes, you canelires of worth,
Snreuay his life, and learne by him to liue:
Whose bountie kindnes, and valoure shewed forth,
If I shoulld write the dastard hart might greeue.
Casting great doubtes how they might me beleeue,
Yet Ile maintaine, this captaines actes are such:
As fewe I know will hassard halfe so much

at his lodging in London.

Sir knowing your kind nature to be such, as ioyed that your freinds welfare, especially those that for there countries good deserue honorably to be spokē, of as your selfe in younger yeares haue many waies iepertd your bodie, in your countries seruice whose scars yet remaine as badges of your forewarones, and desire to gaine that your ancestlers of fame, long time to there great commendations maintained, the consideration of which moued me here to fore, from dungaruan, to aduertize you of the ariuall of our good freind, & your especiall fauouret maister *William Grafton*, at Kinsall, whose succes I wrot you at large, for that my last lettres (and ioy of your freindes good) was so gracious with you, as one that loues you both well, I make bold to signifie vnto you the saide captaines safe landing at Clauelly in the west partes, where my selfe being commanded on some busines of my captaines frō my place, bownd for england, crossed by horsh windes, whereunto trauelers are subiect being destressed we wear enforced to put in for the said port of Clauelly, where happely I met & well met, this braue gentleman Captain *Grafton*, who as here to fore I certified you, hauing prepared hir small caruell called our Ladie fitte for the seas, embarqued himselfe at youholl in Ireland well furnished with braue and resoluit men, & vittailes store, betaking himselfe to the fortune of the seas, where opprest with extreame weather, doing what men might do by the parmission of God, they endured as long as possible they might, til for releef they bare for englād, & at Clauelly againe replenished there decaied victtuals, & other necessaries & on sonday the 28. of Maye being the sonday next after trinitie sonday, they set saile from the said port, hauing all that day and night a faire bearing gall, on twesday they espied two saile as much to wind ward as in the top they might descry whō they gaue chace vnto, and by tenne of the clock in the morning, came vp with them, which shipes were both of Bristow, the one the Vnicorn and the other a small barke of the same place. The companie of

there two shippes they kept with the next morning, wne captaine *Grafton* espying fowr other sailes, standing vpō the sailing of his caruell, which is very good, he parted with the said Vnicorne & her cōsort, & bare with there late descried huls in hope of good hap which according to his worth he doth deseruedly merit as time finisheth many things, so time and short time hath brought him within the plaine vewe of those two last discried sailes, whom they fownd to be two mightie great fly boats who seruing the King of Spaine, straied from the fleet, the sight of those made diuers of his companie appaled, whom the good captaine with wordes of great courage so comforted, that if his discretion had not been more for his safitie and thers, then there wilfull hardines, they would haue attempted to haue taken the one of them, but the captaine hauing perswaded them they neuertheless bare vp with them, & thorowly veewed them, and so departed, shooting a head the biger of them, when captaine *Graftonnes* men that lay close shewed them selues, & were of the other perceiued, there came presently two shot from them which mist the caruill the lesser flieboat being good of saile, gaue them chace, that day till three a clock, whom the Captaine perceiued and by little & little slacked there saile, to see what they durst doo, being from her consart, which she had ouer shot at least two leages.

The fly boat seching vppon the Captaine who made no hast to runne a way, but determined to change a shot or two with them, prouided them selues for the same fight, knowing well they might at their pleasures leaue or take, hauing but one cast Peece a boord, and that the mouth broken, the guner a stout & Proper man made readie, by that time all things was fited to the Captaines mind, the fly boat with fourteene or fifteene men in armour wanned them to lee ward, railing and reuiling them, with speeches most odious, to whom the guner sent such a token by his Minion, that with the crosse barre, he was charged, he split the misen mast in the step, & did much other harme as well in the Captaines Cabin through which it went, as slaiing some men which was seene to be cast ouer boord. Thus for three houres they continued a sore fight, the Captaine being

cuer

euer forewarde to boord (& boorded bought with) the
there ordinance otherwise ſhould haue done them moſt harme,
yet of ſuch height was this foule cart from the Caruill ſides,
that their taleſt man migh hardly reach their channell holes,
ſo that there was no entering but with great danger, and there-
fore for ſafegarde of their men, the Captaine gaue ouer the
fight; and not of feare for his men were reſolute, and doubted
not the good ſucceſſe, and happie conqueſt of their enemies.

Thus neere ſix a clock in the euening the caruill parting, the
fight bareing rome from them, whoſe conſart was now come vp
with them, continuing his courſe towardes the Ilandes, with
faire and good weather where they had many chaces, which
becauſe their actions were little worth to rehearſe, I omit to
tell you of the bleſsing of the Almighty, on this worthy de-
ſeruing Captaine, whoſe godly mind and good dealinges with
all men the Lord doth reward. Sailing ſtil towards the Ilandes
the ſeuenth day after they loſt the ſight of our owne land, (ſil-
ly) they eſpied in the height of fortie two leager, two ſailes
the one of them, being of burthen an hundreth and twenty tuns
or there abouts, hauing in her of men forty ſix, furniſhed with
ten caſt Peeces, the other of ſome three ſcore tunne or there
abouts, with ſixteene men in her, well ſir after the captaine had
hailed them, and bad thē ſtrike, they bearing Spaniards proud
mindes, ſeeing ſo ſmale a Caruill as this our Ladie of the Cap-
taines, ſcorned to yeeld, but made reddie to fight, and both
began with all their force to aſſaile him moſt hotly, the gun-
ner, from the great ſhip, ſhot the Caruilles meane miſsen from
the yardes ſhered many ropes and did them great miſcheefe, ſo
that with ſplycing and repairing, the ſame company was greatly
puſſeled, in this time the Captaine calling for a canne of Wine
and drinking hartely to them, deſired them all as they loued
him to follow him, and at the next comming vp they would
boord her where to they were al very willing, and comming vp
with them againe, the Gunner with his broken mouth Mini-
on, racked him fore and oft, the barre entring at the ſtarre went
thoroughout: then comming vp in her quarter, the Captaine
leapt in at their cheane holes, and one other with him who was

...ready, with shot and other hand weapons, yet kept their place, when the shippes saling off, he had no remedy, but abide that chance God had alotted them, the company aboord loth to let their Captaine rest in so great dãger came aboord againe, when valiantly they entered, his boy being with the first aboord had taken downe their Flag, to the great greefe of the enemie, who now repenting their hardinesse craued mercie, the other smale Shippe seeing all the men of VVarre almost aboord, their Prise layed the Caruell aboord, but to their great cost. For there beeing courageous men, entered but six of them with their swordes and dagers, swordes and targates and such as they had, and stowed the fifteene Portingauls so that they were possessed of both sooner then they exspected, the Captaine seeing the other was taken gaue God thankes for his goodnes, then demanded the Captaine of whence they were, they answered (of *Viana* in Portugale, and came from Parmabucca) loden with fine white Sugars, and dyuers Negros, when the companie had made through sarch for pillage, the Captaine determined to bare for England, which his company willingly agreed vnto, praising him that giueth all victories for their good successe, first in deliuering them without perill from the flie-bootes, next for their prises, who was able being furnished with English-men, to haue beaten foure such Caruiles, with ten peeces and fortie and six men, the other sixteene men besides Negros, the Caruill in all had but thirtie seuen men one cast peece, wherefore hauing named their prises, they had men fewe inough to carry home the Caruil, which compelled the to leaue one other Caruil loden with Sugar behind them, a good pleasure to the poore Portugalles, which loked with their neighbours to goe for England, thus in fiue weekes retorned the Captaine to Clauelly from whence they went. & sooner might if God had fauored them with faire windes. At the same port the said Captaine discharged his goods royally, paied each man of his company with the most, so that as well the pesant as the best had no cause to complaine, the Portugalls his prisoners he kept a shore at boord wages, so long as they remained with him, and after his busines ended, causing

causing the good Iesus his smale prise to be rigged and vitled for three monethes, he gaue her the prisoners to bring them home with their Negroos and mony largly, by which his bountie and charitie to these poore men no doubt he gaineth as well loue of God, as fauour and the louing kind hartes of men.

Thus farre with fauour I beseech you except my simple writing and ioy with mee as I know you doo for your freind whom God by his grace hath sufficiently blessed with welth, as heere tofore I certified you, his owne ship was the grace of God, who took our Lady and saint Anthonie, our Lady she made a man of warre, who hath taken now those two prises loaden with suger the one called saint Faunces, the other the good Iesus, both of *Viana*, a wonder of the Lorde, to appoint this Spanish saints to make rich his english sailours, as by this valiant Captaine is shewed, for how many Captaines hath had such blessinges as this gentlemā, or who more fortunate, whom Iesus our Lady S. Faunces & S. Anthony, hath brought their blessinges there news, ther is none worthy to write, but for your hawkes, I hope by saint Iames tide to bring you, till then with my heartiest commendationes, I leaue you to his protection whom I daily pray to blesse vs all from Barnstable in the north of Deuonshire this 6 of Iuly 1592. yours euer redie to vse H.R.